

BOARD FOR GEOLOGISTS AND GEOPHYSICISTS



AUGUST BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

written by Paul Sweeney

The Board had a full agenda for its regularly scheduled meeting on August 3. One of the action items was a reinstatement hearing for a former licensee. An Administrative Law Judge will issue results of the hearing within 30 days.

The Board elected officers for the next year, with Dorene Dominguez elected President and Seena Hoose elected Vice President. Ex-officio appointments to the Board's Committees were made as well. Elections are held at the first Board meeting after the beginning of the State's fiscal year (July 1).

The Board also granted a temporary Registered Geophysicists license to Dr. Harve S. Waff. Dr. Waff is working with the Office of Emergency Services in northern California to find new sources of water to reduce the effects of the drought that this part of the State has endured.

George Dunfield, the Board's new Enforcement Manager, gave his first enforcement report to the Board. Enforcement continues to be a high priority to the Board and Board staff.

Department of Consumer Affairs Budget Analyst Arlene Sakazaki made a report on the Board's Fund Condition. The Board may be in a deficit situation in Fiscal Year 2002-03, and cost-savings measures will continue. The Board is considering the possibility of administering its licensing examinations once a year instead of the current twice a year. The Board is soliciting Public Comment on this possibility and will be discussing it at length at the September 28, 2001 Board meeting.

Most of the Board's Committees (Technical Advisory, Examination, Legislation, and Executive) gave a report on their activities. The Enforcement Committee's report was "folded into" the overall enforcement report given by Mr. Dunfield.

A report on the Board's Public Outreach activities was also given. The Board sponsored a booth at the Annual Meeting of the California Mining Association in May, and the Board's web site recently had its 41,000th "hit."

There was also substantial discussion on Senate Bill 136 (Figueroa), which carried the Board's Revised Act until July 10. At this time, the Act has been "carved out" of the Bill until more revisions are made.

SENATE BILL 136

The Revised Act will not be included in Senate Bill 136 (Figueroa). The compromise language that was worked out between CalEPA, the Department of Consumer Affairs, the Engineers Board and the Geology Board was unsuitable to many professionals who are licensed by the Geology Board. Therefore, Board President Dorene Dominguez and I agreed with Robin Hartley of Senator Figueroa's office to keep it out.

Regarding fee increase language, there are several bills before Senator Figueroa right now. We will monitor what happens to the bills that involve DCA Boards before making a fee increase recommendation to the Legislature.

We will see you the next time around!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the participants in this process.

"GRANDFATHERING"

When the first Board meeting was held in the Spring of 1969, more than 3,000 applications for registration as a geologist and nearly 1,000 applications for certification as an engineering geologist were received. Until Spring of 1969, examinations for certification and licensure were nonexistent in the State of California. Therefore, certification and licensure were granted based upon satisfactory education and experience requirements. Known as "grandfathering" this process allowed individuals to obtain licensure within the State of California without taking a test. Registered Geologist license numbers 1-3008 have been "grandfathered" and approximately 700 licenses are still active.

Grandfathering was deleted from the Geologist and Geophysicists Act (Act) in 1984. The initial grandfathering period was two years and ended on December 31, 1969. As a consequence, almost all grandfathered geologist, geophysicists, and engineering geologists are 60 years of age or older. The rate of retirement for grandfathered licensees has been about 5 percent a year and is increasing.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOARDS OF GEOLOGY ANNUAL MEETING

The National Association of State Boards of Geology will hold its annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, October 8-14, 2001. In addition to the Executive Committee meeting and the Council of Examiners workshop, a field trip has been added to this year's schedule. The field trip's purpose is to provide a general framework of geological history of the Greater Pittsburgh area and to bring to light some of the unique geotechnical and environmental features of the area and the impact of those features on development.

Attendees will include Executive Officer Paul Sweeney, Board Vice President Seena Hoose, Public Board Member Sharon Jasek Reid, Examination Committee Chair John Williams, and Council of Examiners appointee Bob Tepel.

WHERE ARE YOU?

The answer to the Summer 2001 Newsletter "Where Are You" is:

Carpinteria State Beach, California
ID 869, Karachewski, A. John. Southern California.
<http://www.geoscapesphotography.com/ca-carpenteriacobbles.htm>

Cobbles of tertiary sandstone are embedded in a natural asphalt seep at Carpinteria State Beach in Santa Barbara County. The Miocene Monterey Formation, the source rock of the petroleum hydrocarbons, was deposited in distal marine basins. The sediments included tests of foraminifera, calcareous nannoplankton, diatoms, and radiolarians. During burial to a depth of 15,000 feet or more, the organic matter was converted to petroleum hydrocarbons. The petroleum hydrocarbons seep out of fractures and naturally flow onto the beach.

In the late 1700's, Spanish named the area La Carpinteria, "The Carpenter Shop" because of the woodworking abilities of the local Chumash Indians. The Indians dug pits and used asphalt seeping out of the cliffs to caulk and waterproof their sea-going canoes for transportation to the Channel Islands.

POSTCARDS

Due to the Board's current fiscal situation, we will stop mailing to licensees announcing the release of new Information Bulletins and Newsletters. This cost-saving initiative will help the Board save money and it will not interfere with the circulation of new publications. Information Bulletins and Newsletters will continue to be posted on the Board's website at www.dca.ca.gov/geology.

If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Board at (916) 263-2113 and request a publication be mailed to you. The Board appreciates your understanding and patience and hopes to resume mailings in the future.

Contact the Board
Board for Geologists and Geophysicists
2535 Capitol Oaks Drive, Suite 300A
(916) 263-2113 phone
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geology@dca.ca.gov e-mail

ENFORCEMENT ACTION

Clyde L. Hebbbron
Registered Geologist No.: 4717

The Board issued a citation and fine of \$2,500 to Clyde L. Hebbbron for violation of section 7860(b) and 7860(c) of the Business and Professions Code (Geologist and Geophysicist Act) and for violation of section 3065(a)(2) of Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations. The citation was issued for negligence in professional practice for inappropriate siting recommendations for sewage disposal systems in reports written to establish septic system site suitability and design. Section 125.9(d) of the Business and Professions Code specifies that payment of the fine does not constitute admission of the violation charged and represents satisfactory resolution of the matter.

The respondent has paid the fine and the case was closed on July 5, 2001.